Our Vision and Mission

The Office of Disability Services will strive to become a model program serving students with disabilities in higher education. We are committed to developing a society in which individuals with disabilities thrive and participate fully. These individuals will be challenged to become responsible decision-makers, problem solvers and self-advocates in charge of their own destiny. We envision a campus community where all individuals are seen as valued and contributing members of society. Respect for all will encompass everything we do.

The mission of the Office of Disability Services is to ensure that students with disabilities have equal access to all university programs and activities. We provide students the opportunity to reach their full potential by:

- coordinating academic accommodations and support services
- promoting independence and self-advocacy
- providing information and referral to appropriate resources

We help to foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by:

- building and maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff
- promoting disability awareness among all members of the university community
- providing guidance regarding university policies and procedures to ensure the full participation for persons with disabilities in all aspects of campus life

Welcome from the ODS Director, Dr. Clint-Michael Reneau

Welcome to Bobcat Nation! Let me take a moment to personally welcome you to a place where you are more than a number, but rather, a person who matters. One of my goals for when you graduate this institution is that you are an informed and empowered citizen. There are many offices at Texas State that will help you achieve both of these things, including the Office of Disability Services. ODS helps foster a supportive and inclusive educational environment by building and maintaining partnerships with faculty and staff, promoting disability awareness within the university community, and by providing guidance regarding university policies and procedures to ensure the full participation of persons with disabilities in all aspects of life.
Introducing Our New Graduate Assistants!

Ms. Aven Jackson

Aven Jackson graduated from Austin College located in Sherman, Texas in May of 2016 with a Bachelor’s of Arts focused on sociology, psychology and art. She joined Texas State University’s Student Affairs in Higher Education (SAHE) Master’s program. Ms. Jackson became interested in student affairs because of her hands-on experiences as a peer mentor and outreach enrollment caller during her undergraduate career. She desired to continue helping students and wanted to learn how to promote their success on campuses through different offices and services. Aven is the new Graduate Assistant of Accessibility Services for the Office of Disability Services and works with Assistive Technologies for students at Texas State. Ms. Jackson is excited to get to know her coworkers at the Office of Disability Services, staff, faculty, and cohort members of the SAHE program. She is eager to learn about student affairs and higher education master’s program in order to provide students with equal and different opportunities to thrive on college campuses.

Mr. Garreth Casper

Garreth Casper graduated from Texas A&M University in 2013 with a Bachelor’s of Arts in Mathematics and STEM Education. He worked as a high school Math teacher and spent time activated overseas in the Texas Army National Guard before coming to Texas State for the Student Affairs in Higher Education master’s program. Garreth gained a passion in education and helping students’ development as he mentored fellow undergrad students and then later taught mathematics to high school students. Garreth is the new Graduate Assistant in charge of Outreach, Retention, and Assessment with the Office of Disability Services. In his free time, Garreth hosts video game tournaments on campus for fellow members of the student-body. He is very excited to join the Bobcat family and is looking forward to learning more about the world of student affairs.

Staff Spotlight: Joshua Love

Outreach, Assessment, and Retention Coordinator

Q: How long have you worked with ODS?
A: I joined the Office of Disability Services team on August 1, 2016, as the Outreach, Assessment and Retention Coordinator. On April 8th, 2016, I came to Texas State to speak about the new realities of HIV/AIDS on college campuses. The inspirational team in the Office of Disability Services and the Student Affairs Division fueled my passion as an educator and activist. When the opportunity to apply to work at Texas State University came, I knew it was a chance in a lifetime that I did not want to miss out on.

Q: What responsibilities do you have with your position in ODS?
A: First and foremost I am an educator. I get the extraordinary opportunity to offer presentations to students, staff and faculty on a broad range of disability-related topics, intersectionality and social justice. I partner with campus leaders to tailor each offering and presentation to the specific needs and interests of the community members who will be present. Next I am privileged to serve as an advocate and mentor with students and community members at Texas State University in expanding awareness about living with disabilities and deconstructing the myths and stereotypes that surround disabilities. In the words of Audre Lorde, “It is not difference which immobilizes us, but silence…there are so many silences to be broken.” I also serve as part of the Assessment Team, which looks at the past, present and future strategic initiatives in order to lift up our successes and strengthen us for the days when we are challenged. Every student deserves the opportunity to pursue a successful future through self-determination, self-advocacy and effective intentional partnerships. I get to follow the leadership of my department and division’s leaders in modeling servant-leadership: serving the Texas State University community and empowering others to make their highest possible contributions. I don’t believe in waiting on the world to change; I believe we are all here to be the change.

Interview continued on next page...
How to register with ODS

1) Go to ods.txstate.edu

2) Click the paw print icon labeled “Register With ODS”

3) Fill out the Confidential Student Information Form. Registration for services with ODS requires this form.

4) Send any additional documentation of the student’s disability to our office, email ODS, or fax at 512.245.3452.

5) The ODS will review the need for accommodations and support services based on the student’s disability documentation and disability-based need. ODS has up to 30 business days of receipt of the documentation to decide appropriate accommodations.

6) The ODS will notify the student to set up an appointment via email after determining appropriate accommodations.

7) After meeting with an ODS specialist, the student can sign up for Special Group’s Registration and request their Accommodation Letter here in our office. The Accommodation Letter will be ready within 72 hours.
Looking Back on Recent Events

Tips and Tricks to a Great Semester

- Get a free student planner from the Dean of Students office. [www.registrar.txstate.edu/persistent-links/academic-calendar](http://www.registrar.txstate.edu/persistent-links/academic-calendar)
- Try to stay one reading assignment ahead of class.
- Get together with classmates to study. They can offer additional insight into difficult concepts.
- Utilize academic resources on campus (the writing center, Student Learning Assistance Center, the math lab, and many more)
- Make goals for yourself and post them in plain sight.
- Change what isn’t working. If mid-terms do not go as planned, re-evaluate your study methods.
- Practice self-care regularly!

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*Seen to the right are photos from the ODS Tips & Tricks: Passport to Success event held on September 13th, 2016.*

*Pictured Below are photos taken from tabling the Graduate Student Orientation held August 17th, 2016.*
Getting Involved with ODS: Upcoming Events

**Thursday, October 6, 2016**

“Healing Arts: Strategies for Decreasing Anxiety, Depression and Stress in Campus Life”

Presented by the Office of Disability Services in partnership with the Black Arts Association of Texas State University

5:00-7:00PM; LBJSC Room 3-13.1

Students, Staff, and Faculty Are Welcome and Encouraged to Participate

**Thursday, October 13, 2016**

“National Latinx HIV Awareness and Activism: ¡Conocimiento es Poder!”

Presented by the Office of Disability Services in partnership with Latinx Student, Staff and Faculty Organizations of Texas State University

11:00AM-1:00PM; LBJSC Amphitheater

Students, Staff, and Faculty Are Welcome and Encouraged to Participate

**Thursday, October 20, 2016**

“Gender, Disability and the Intersectionality of Violence: Silent No More”

Presented by the Office of Disability Services

4:00-6:30PM; LBJSC Room 3-13.1

Students, Staff, and Faculty Are Welcome and Encouraged to Participate

**Thursday, October 27, 2016**

“Open Hearts: Stories of People Living with and affected by Disabilities”

A Multimedia Exhibition of Audio, Visual and Tactile Art

Presented by the Office of Disability Services

5:30-7:30PM; George’s – LBJSC, 1st Floor

Students, Staff, and Faculty Are Welcome and Encouraged to Participate

The student workers of ODS pose for their staff retreat.

“ODS Man” makes his debut at the Student Worker Retreat, standing ready as an ally to all students with disabilities.